



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### COLONEL THOMAS J. TRASK

Colonel Thomas J. Trask is Commander, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. His wing is responsible for training mission-ready special operations, combat search and rescue, missile site support and UH1 DV airlift aircrews for the Air Force, and UPT for all Air Force rotary wing pilots. The wing is comprised of 10 squadrons under the operations and maintenance groups, providing and supporting flight instruction in the MC-130H, MC-130P, UH-1N, HH-60G, MH-53J, UH-1H, HC-130P/N and CV-22 aircraft.

Col Trask is a native of Syracuse, New York. He entered the Air Force in September 1984 after receiving his commission through AFROTC from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott AZ. He has commanded a special operations squadron and a rescue operations group. Among his staff assignments, he has served in NATO, the Joint Staff and at HQ USSOCOM.



Col Trask is a command pilot with more than 3000 hours including 51 combat missions supporting operations in Panama, Iraq, Bosnia, and Kosovo. He is married to the former Karin Fistick, also from Syracuse NY. They have two children, Laura and Jacob.

#### EDUCATION

- 1984 Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott AZ.
- 1991 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 1992 Master's Degree in International Relations, Troy State University
- 1995 Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College, Newport, RI
- 1996 Master's Degree in Airpower Art and Science, School of Advanced Airpower Studies, Maxwell AFB, AL

2001 NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Sep 84 – Jun 85, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training (Helicopter), 3588<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron (ATC), Fort Rucker, AL  
Jul 85 – Oct 87, UH-1N Instructor Pilot, Mobility Officer, Detachment 5, 40<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, 39<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing, (MAC) Edwards AFB, CA  
Oct 87 – Aug 91, MH-53 Instructor Pilot, Plans Officer, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing (AFSOC), Hurlburt Field, FL  
Aug 91 – Jan 93, Executive Officer to the Vice Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), Hurlburt Field, FL  
Jan 93 – Jul 94, Flight Examiner, Chief of Stan/Eval, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing (AFSOC), Hurlburt Field, FL  
Aug 94 – Jun 95, student, College of Naval Command and Staff (AETC), Newport, RI  
Jul 95 – Jun 96, student, School of Advanced Airpower Studies (SAAS) (AETC), Maxwell AFB, AL  
Jul 96 – Jun 98, Plans Officer, Plans and Policy Division, HQ Allied Air Forces Southern Europe (NATO), Naples, Italy  
Jun 98 – Feb 01, Operations Officer and Commander, 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing (AFSOC), Hurlburt Field, FL  
Feb 01 – Aug 01, student, NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy  
Aug 01 – Aug 02, Chief, Special Operations Forces Division, J-3, Joint Staff (JCS), Pentagon, Washington D.C.  
Aug 02 – Feb 04, Commander, 347<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 347<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing (ACC/AFSOC), Moody AFB, GA  
Feb 04 – May 05, Special Assistant to the Commander, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), Macdill AFB, FL  
May 05 - Present, Commander, 58th Special Operations Wing, Kirtland AFB, NM

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: 3000

Aircraft Flown: MH-53H/J/M, HH-53B/C, CH-53A/C, HH-60G, UH-1N, HC-130P, MC-130H, CV-22

## **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

1991 Mackay Trophy

Silver Star

Legion of Merit

Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant 21 Apr 1984

First Lieutenant 28 Jun 1986

Captain	28 Jun 1988
Major	1 Nov 1994
Lieutenant Colonel	1 Sep 1998
Colonel	1 Sep 2002

(Current as of May 2005)